

## **RULE 1**

### **GENERAL**

#### **(a) Application**

These Local Rules apply in civil actions as defined in Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 1 and 2. The Court may modify these rules in exceptional circumstances or when justice so requires.

#### **(b) Effective Date: Repealer**

These rules shall be effective September 29, 2003, and shall govern all proceedings in cases then pending, or thereafter brought. All prior rules of this Court are repealed, and all standing orders inconsistent with these rules are vacated, as of that date.

#### **(c) Definitions**

The term “judicial officer” includes district and magistrate judges. The term “judges” refers to district judges. The term “party's attorney” or similar term whenever used in these rules shall include a party appearing without counsel. The term “clerk” includes the Clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico and deputy clerks. The term “marshal” includes the United States Marshal and deputy marshals.

#### **(d) Numbering**

The numbering of the local rules tracks the numbers of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Supplemental local rules concerning admiralty or maritime claims have been assigned letters “A” through “F,” corresponding to the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims. Rules concerning specific local matters have been listed under the letter “G.”

#### **(e) Citation**

Citation of a particular provision of the local rules of civil practice, including the local rules concerning admiralty or maritime claims, shall be by name and number, including the year of enactment when referring to a previous version of the rule: e.g., Local Civil Rule or L.Cv.R. 1(e); Local Admiralty Rule or L.Adm.R. A (1997). If the pleading makes reference to the local rules of another district, give

the abbreviated district name followed by the year of enactment, including the year of enactment when referring to a previous version of the rule: e.g., Local Civil Rule for the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts or L.Cv.R. 1(e) (D.Mass. 1997); Local Criminal Rule for the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine or L.Crim.R. 101(e) (D.Me. 1997).

**(f) Failure to Abide**

The failure violation of or failure to abide by these rules may entail sanctions, at the discretion of the court.